

elo

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/937,178

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

Applicant(s)

LANT ET AL.

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated December 10, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13, 17, 18 renumbered 1-3 respectively.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1751

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

2.1. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been replaced with the following:

--Abstract of the Disclosure

A process for washing a substrate comprises the first step of providing a substrate and a detergent tablet wherein at least a portion of the outer surface is semi-solid, a second step of rubbing the semi-solid portion of the detergent tablet onto the substrate and a third step of inserting the substrate and the tablet in a washing machine, the wash taking place normally thereafter.--

2.2. The TITLE has been replaced with: PROCESS FOR WASHING A SUBSTRATE

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-12, 14-16 have been cancelled (claims 1-9 previously cancelled in a preliminary amendment) which rendered moot the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson; the rejection of claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rowland; and

Art Unit: 1751

the obviousness rejection of claim 11 based upon Rowland in view of Eoga. With respect to the presently amended independent claim 13, the closest prior art to Rowland in view of Van Den Brom, has been overcome because even though Rowland, the primary reference, teaches a detergent tablet for use in machine dishwashing and laundry washing wherein the tablet comprises a compressed portion and a non compressed portion which may be in gel form, this reference fails to teach rubbing the non-compressed portion in gel form onto a substrate. Van Den Brom, the secondary reference, teaches a detergent composition in bar or stick form wherein the composition is applied to stains and spots on either dry fabric or fabric that has been dampened with water, however, Van Den Brom fails to teach a detergent tablet having at least a portion of the outer surface in semi-solid-form and fails to teach inserting the bar or stick with the fabric in the washing machine. Accordingly, the subject matter, as a whole, would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

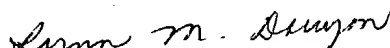
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

Art Unit: 1751

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751